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LB 735, 925

highest jump in our national ranking. We had the highest number of programs that became accredited in one year and moved from, I believe, 40...44th in the nation, in terms of accredited programs, to 27th in this past year. And I believe that it is because we have been having a great deal of discussion about the connection between the quality of child care and how children fare. And so that there has been an emphasis and the Governor established the Business Commission on Child Care Financing, and at least part of what they looked at had to do with quality. And quality is not just about social value but I think it's also about what we should be doing in terms of accountability for credits. We have certain standards that we require for businesses to get economic development incentives. We require that they create a certain number of jobs and that their programs do certain things, and I think that we should have the same kind of requirement for the quality of programs if we really believe that...that what happens to children is impacted by what happens to them in out-of-home care. And there have been some statements that there...it's not...that not all the employees have to worry about child care, and that's absolutely true, but I would also remind us what Senator Landis said about Nebraska being the state that has the highest number of children whose parents are in...parents in the workforce, women in the workforce who have young children. Now he...Senator Landis talked about whether this bill, the bill that was the underlying bill of the Suttle amendment, got out committee, the underlying bill for the amendment that I'm going to offer did get out of committee. It was LB 735. It increases the educational requirements for those who...training requirements and educational requirements for those who provide services in either their home or in child care centers. And one thing that I would emphasize as we're talking about this, we've talked a lot about centers. We've talked about businesses establishing centers. But this is not just about centers. It is also about businesses contracting with home providers who very often provide...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...most of the care for children and provide very good care in many instances. A number of the accredited programs that we've talked about are home care providers. And